

Remarks

Claims 1-12 were pending. Claims 1, 4, and 9-11 have been amended while claims 13-17 have been added. Applicant asserts that the currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stark (US 5,996,728). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections to the extent they apply to the currently pending claims.

Regarding claim 1, this claim recites, in part, a base cabinet which houses at least one speaker with at least one connection hole in one of the four sides and at least one connection hole in a side that is perpendicular to the one side, at least one female connector centered on the at least one connection hole in the one side and at least one female connector centered on the at least one connection hole in the side that is perpendicular to the one side. Claim 1 further recites at least one male connector which passes through either the at least one connection hole in the one side or the at least one connection hole in the side that is perpendicular to the one side and attaches to the female connector of either the at least one connection hole in the one side or the at least one connection hole in the side that is perpendicular to the one side. These recitations are contrary to Stark.

Stark discloses that the array of cabinets may be created only in one dimension, namely, the vertical dimension. The cabinets of stark are devised to be stacked in a vertical configuration where they may be hung from a support. As such, Stark only discloses that there are receiving holes 24 on the tops and bottoms of the cabinets. The tops and the bottoms are parallel sides such that Stark does NOT disclose that there are female connectors on perpendicular sides such that a male connector can be positioned into either the female connector on one side or a female connector on a perpendicular side. Stark has not contemplated mating cabinets in either the horizontal or the vertical dimensions, and as such, Stark fails to disclose all of the recitations of claim 1.

Because Stark fails to disclose all of the recitations, claim 1 is allowable over Stark for at least these reasons. Dependent claims 2-9, as well as new dependent claims

13-15, depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

103 Rejections

Claims 2, 4-7, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 UCS §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stark (US Pat.) in view of Selby (US Pat.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

As noted above, claims 2-9 depend from an allowable base claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. It should be noted that Selby fails to account for the deficiencies of Stark. Furthermore, one or more of these claims are allowable for additional reasons.

For example, claim 4 recites that the one side and the perpendicular side include four connection holes. As Stark only provides for holes on parallel sides, it is evident that Stark does not disclose four connections holes on one side that is perpendicular to another side with four connection holes, and Selby fails to account for these deficiencies. As such, claim 4 is allowable for these additional reasons.

As another example, claim 6 recites that the female connector is a slab base weld nut and claim 7 recites that the said male connector and female connector are conventional quarter turn fasteners. The Office Action has taken Official Notice that such fasteners are well known. However, it is not adequate for purposes of rejected under section 103 to merely state that these fasteners are well known. The Office Action must also acknowledge that there must be proper motivation to combine that which may be well known with the primary reference and the Office Action has failed to do so. Indeed, there is no such motivation as the resulting combination would be inoperable. Stark relies on a specific type of female connection for proper operation, namely a lock plate assembly which allows a coupling pin to enter the hole 24, and be locked in place with the lock plate assembly. In relation to claim 6, there is no expectation of success where a lock plate assembly is needed but a slab base weld nut is being substituted. In relation to claim 7, there is no expectation of success where the male connector is a

quarter turn fastener as opposed to a coupling pin of Stark. As such, claims 6 and 7 are allowable for these additional reasons.

Regarding claim 9, it recites a series external jack providing a series electrical connection between the at least one speaker and an external input jack of a speaker of a mating cabinet when the input jack is electrically connected to the first external jack and further including a plurality of parallel external jacks providing parallel electrical connections between the at least one speaker and external input jacks of speakers of mating cabinets when the input jacks are electrically connected to the plurality of parallel external jacks. Stark fails to disclose such recitations and Selby also fails to do so. The cited language of column 4 in Selby is merely a wiring configuration for speakers of the same cabinet. Selby fails to disclose that there are external jacks used to create a series connection or parallel connection with external speakers such as those of mating cabinets. As such claim 9 is allowable for these additional reasons.

Regarding claim 10, it recites at least one series external jack providing a series electrical connection between at least one speaker of the cabinet and an external input jack of a speaker of another cabinet when the input jack is electrically connected to the series external jack, whereby (a) a user of said speaker cabinet can connect one or more speaker cabinets in series. As discussed above for claim 9, Stark fails to disclose these recitations, and Selby also fails to do so as Selby is only focused on interconnections of speakers in the same cabinet and does not contemplate external jacks providing such series connections. Thus, claim 10 is allowable over the cited combination for at least these reasons, and dependent claims 11-12 depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for the same reasons.

Additionally, claims 11 and 12 recite additional subject matter not disclosed by the cited combination. Therefore, claims 11 and 12 are also allowable for additional reasons.

New claims

New claims 13-15 depend from claim 1 and are discussed above. Furthermore, new independent claim 16 and new dependent claims 17 and 18 include recitations not disclosed by the cited references.

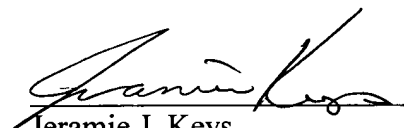
Conclusion

Applicant asserts that the application including claims 1-17 is now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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